

NEWS RELEASE

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Governor Michael R. Pence Lt. Governor Sue Ellspermann Director Ted A. McKinney

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ISDA Seeks RFP for Food Hub Feasibility Study

INDIANAPOLIS – The Indiana State Department of Agriculture is seeking a request for proposal to complete a feasibility study for regional food hubs throughout the state. The selected proposal will be funded through the USDA's Specialty Crop Block Grant.

The purpose of the RFP is to select a vendor that can complete a feasibility study to assess the needs of growers and consumers regarding the potential of regional food hubs. Additionally, the study will look at the management, logistics and e-commerce elements required to operate a food hub network at a statewide level.

The Indiana Department of Administration is acting on behalf of the Indiana State Department of Agriculture to solicit responses to the RFP. All questions about the RFP and study should be directed to the Indiana Department of Administration. RFPs are due on Feb. 28, 2014 at 3 p.m.

To view the RFP, please click <u>here</u> and click the link "Development of Feasibility Study for Food Hubs RFP-14-072."

ABOUT ISDA

The Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) was established as a separate state agency by the Legislature in 2005. The Director is appointed by the Governor and is a member of the Governor's Cabinet. Administratively, ISDA reports to Lt. Governor Sue Ellspermann, who also serves as Indiana's Secretary of Agriculture. Major responsibilities include advocacy for Indiana agriculture at the local, state and federal level, managing soil conservation programs, promoting economic development and agricultural innovation, serving as a regulatory ombudsman for agricultural businesses, and licensing grain firms throughout the state.

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